

# Planner's Update

*News that planners can use*

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Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development

Growth Management Services

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Greetings!

I hope the New Year finds you and your communities well. This issue of the Planner's Update contains important and useful information as you embark on another year's work program. Please feel free to call us at (360) 725-3000 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Leonard Bauer, Managing Director  
Growth Management Services

## GMA Updates

### 2004 GMA Review and Updates

Nine counties (Whatcom, Clallam, Jefferson, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston, and Clark) and the cities within them were required to review and, if necessary, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations by December 1, 2004 (see RCW 36.70A.130). This has been a challenging process for many jurisdictions and I would like to personally congratulate the cities and counties that have ensured that their plans and regulations remain consistent with their community's vision for the future. As of December 29, 2004, CTED staff had reviewed draft plan revisions or development regulations from 91 of the 117 cities and counties that had a

deadline of December 1, 2004. However, only 13 percent of the cities and counties with the December 1 deadline had sent CTED an adopted ordinance or resolution indicating they had completed the required review and update.

#### ***What does it mean if your city or county did not complete the review and update process by December 1, 2004?***

There are two immediate consequences for cities and counties not meeting this deadline. First, only those jurisdictions that have submitted to CTED a resolution or ordinance of their legislative body stating they have completed their review and update are authorized to receive grants or loans from the Public Works Trust

Fund (PWTF) or Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) [RCW 36.70A.130(7)]. Second, jurisdictions that have not completed their review and update may be vulnerable to a potential "failure to act" petition to a growth management hearings board.

#### ***What should a city or county do to avoid these consequences?***

Completing its review and update will remove a city or county's risk of both of these consequences. It is important for the staff of a jurisdiction's planning and public works departments to coordinate closely to make sure the review and update process is complete before applying for a grant or

loan from PTWF or CCWF. **To complete the GMA review and update process, the city or county legislative body must take legislative action (i.e., adopt a resolution or ordinance).** The adopting resolution or ordinance must include findings that the jurisdiction has completely reviewed their comprehensive plan and development regulations and updated them as necessary to ensure they are completely in compliance with all the GMA planning requirements of RCW 36.70A. **In addition, the adopting resolution or ordinance must be sent to CTED's Growth**

**Management Services (GMS) program** to be included in the database of those jurisdictions that have completed the review and update.

There is much more information on the GMA review and update process on the GMS Web site at [www.cted.wa.gov/growth](http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth). If you have any questions, please call GMS at 360-725-3000.

### *2005 GMA Review and Update*

Thirty-five counties and cities have a deadline of December 1, 2005, to review and, if necessary, revise their comprehensive plans

and development regulations. These include San Juan, Skagit, Island, Lewis, Cowlitz, Mason, and Skamania counties and the cities within them. Most of these jurisdictions currently are working on their review and update process under grants from CTED. **A reminder to these jurisdictions: because the state fiscal biennium ends on June 30, 2005, these grant contracts must be completed by that date.** If additional funding is provided by the Legislature in the 2005-2007 biennium, additional grants will be made available to these jurisdictions for review and update work to be completed between July 1 and December 1, 2005.

## *CTED Updating Parks, Economic Development Planning Guidebooks*

Following the adoption of the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990, CTED produced a series of guidebooks to help local governments through the process of developing the various elements of their comprehensive plans. This guidebook series was heavily used by cities and counties during the development of their initial GMA comprehensive plans. In order to keep the guidebooks useful and timely, CTED has reviewed the guidebooks and prioritized them for comprehensive updates. The guidebooks to be updated in 2005 address comprehensive plan elements on parks and open space and economic development.

*Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community* is being updated as a joint project with the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), which provides a major source of grant funding for parks and recreation facilities. The draft update of this guidebook is complete, and the final should be available in March 2005. It includes information that will help counties and cities develop parks plans that will meet the GMA requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(8) and the planning requirements for grant funding from IAC.

The update of *Economic Development Through Growth Management: Making the Vision a Reality* is just beginning, but is of interest to many local governments that are currently in fiscal "belt-tightening" mode. The guidebook will be updated by CTED in coordination with the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) and other economic development professionals to emphasize how a county or city comprehensive plan can pave the way for its local or regional economic development strategy.

## *Three New Studies Completed by CTED*

As directed by the 2004 Washington Legislature, CTED has completed three studies on planning-related topics. All three reports are available at [www.cted.wa.gov/growth](http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth).

*Annexations Under the Growth Management Act: Barriers and Potential Solutions* examines the progress of each of the six “buildable lands” counties to date in achieving annexations or incorporations since adoption of their respective county-wide planning policies. It describes the characteristics of urban land remaining in unincorporated urban growth areas (UGAs). CTED also conducted focus groups in each of the six counties to survey residents in unincorporated UGAs to identify their attitudes towards annexation or incorporation.

An advisory committee assisted CTED with approaches to gathering data and provided input on issues and recommendations for potential solutions. The study identifies potential solutions address the following:

- Propose possible changes to city and county taxing authority which will serve to aid the transfer of annexation of remaining UGAs in a timely manner.
- Identify and discuss the need for funding of capital improvement projects needed to provide urban levels of service.
- Assess the role and statutory authority of the boundary review board and how altering their role and authority might facilitate annexation.
- Propose possible changes to growth management or annexation processes, which will facilitate annexation.

*Designation of Agricultural Lands in Chelan, King, Lewis and Yakima Counties* provides information on agricultural production and the process used to designate agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance in these four counties. It also identifies the contribution of agriculture to the local economies, threats to maintaining the agricultural land base, and measures that local and state government should adopt to maintain the agricultural land base and enhance the agricultural industry.

The third study, *Local Government Project Permitting*, is a study of the projected costs to local governments associated with implementing the new permit reporting requirements for “buildable lands” counties and the cities within them with populations over 20,000. These requirements were adopted under HB 2811 by the 2004 Legislature. CTED obtained data for this study through an e-mail survey of the 35 jurisdictions affected by this legislation.

## ***Notice for Critical Areas Ordinances: Definition of Stream Types Changing***

Many cities and counties have incorporated the classification system for stream types developed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) into their critical areas protection programs, as recommended by CTED. Those jurisdictions should be aware that the DNR is

updating that system as part of a rulemaking process amending WAC 222-16-030, which established the system. A conversion table between the current and proposed water typing systems is available. More information is available at [www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/)

*watertyping*, or by contacting Dennis McDonald, Department of Natural Resources Water Typing Project Manager, at (360) 902-1849. You may also want to consult the CTED *Critical Areas Assistance Handbook* (page 28) for more information.

## ***Planning for Compatible Uses Adjacent to U.S. Military Bases***

In 2002, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 as part of the overall strategy to transform US military branches through realignments and closures to maximize military capabilities and efficiencies. States, communities, and national associations began mobilizing efforts to identify and address issues that may affect base operations. One such issue is encroachment of residential and commercial uses upon military installations, which can affect the viability of installations and the health and safety of the non-military activities that surround them on the land, water, and in the air.

In 2004, at the request of Governor Locke, the Washington State

Legislature enacted RCW 36.70A.530 out of recognition that military installations are of particular importance to the economic health of the state of Washington and it is a priority of the state to protect the land surrounding the military installations from incompatible development. It applies to those cities and counties fully planning under the Growth Management Act that have federal military installations, other than reserve centers, that employ 100 or more personnel and are operated by the U.S. Department of Defense within or adjacent to their borders.

The legislation requires that these counties and cities consult with commanders of military installations when amending

comprehensive plans and development regulations, and request written recommendations and supporting facts related to the use of land being considered from the commanders of the military installations during the 60-day public comment period I to ensure that proposed plan or development regulation amendments will not have any adverse effect on the operations of the installations.

For more information, visit our Web site at [www.cted.wa.gov/growth](http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth) or call Growth Management Services at (360) 725-3000.

## ***Regional Planners' Grants for Shoreline Master Programs, Forums Fire Plans Available***

On behalf of our partners, the Planning Association of Washington and the Washington Chapter of American Planning Association, I want to invite you to attend one of the four regional Winter 2005 Planners' Forums.

### ***Eastern Region, Moses Lake***

*January 19, 2005  
Best Western Hallmark Inn  
I-90 Exit 176*

### ***Olympic Region, Silverdale***

*January 20, 2005  
Silverdale Community Center  
9729 Silverdale Way NW*

### ***Northwest Region, Mount Vernon***

*February 2, 2005  
Skagit Station  
105 East Kincaid Street*

### ***Southwest Region, Vancouver***

*February 3, 2005  
Vancouver City Hall  
210 East 13th Street*

***NOTE:*** All forums will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with lunch on your own.

For more information, contact Ted Gage at (360) 725-3049.

The following are recent announcements regarding funding programs that may be used for Shoreline Master Program and Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Planning.

### ***Shoreline Master Program Grants***

The Washington State Department of Ecology is currently accepting applications for the 2005-07 Shoreline Master Program Grants. The purpose of the funding is to help local governments update their shoreline master programs based on the new shoreline master program guidelines. The available funding is not yet determined and depends on the outcome of the state budgeting process and approval of the state's annual Coastal Zone Management awards. The funding application and other information about the grant program are available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/grants/smp/index.html>. The application deadline is January 14, 2005. If you have questions or need assistance please contact your shoreline planner in the appropriate Ecology regional office or Bev Huether at Ecology's headquarters office at (360) 407-7245 or [bhue461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bhue461@ecy.wa.gov).

### ***Fiscal Year 2006 National Fire Plan Wildland-Urban Interface Grants***

Funding is available from the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs as part of the Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels program to implement projects on non-federal lands for reducing hazardous fuels that may threaten communities and natural landscapes (critical ecosystems) within the wildland-urban interface. Counties, cities, state, and local governmental agencies, federally recognized tribes, universities and colleges, school districts, and state-chartered non-profit organizations may apply. Information concerning grants and other National Fire Plan programs in the Pacific Northwest can be found at the freshly updated Web site [www.nwfireplan.gov](http://www.nwfireplan.gov).